Claims:

60. A method for reducing beta amyloid (Aβ) levels in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal a controlled release composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of at least one HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor.

61. The method of claim 60 wherein said reduction of Aβ levels occurs in the brain, cerebral spinal fluid, or plasma of the mammal.

62. The method of claim 60 wherein said reduction of Aβ levels results from:
    (a) inhibiting production of Aβ;
    (b) increasing the clearance of Aβ peptides in the brain, cerebral spinal fluid, or plasma; or
    (c) preventing or reducing Aβ peptide aggregation or plaque formation in the brain of the mammal.

63. The method of claim 60, wherein the mammal is a human.

64. The method of claim 60, wherein the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of mevastatin, pravastatin, simvastatin, atorvastatin, lovastatin, rivastatin, fluvastatin, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, isomers, derivatives, or metabolites thereof.

65. The method of claim 64, wherein the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is lovastatin or lovastatin acid.

66. The method of claim 64, wherein at least about 200 mg of the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is administered per day.

67. The method of claim 64, wherein at least about 150 mg of the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is administered per day.

68. The method of claim 64, wherein at least about 120 mg of the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is administered per day.

69. The method of claim 64, wherein at least about 100 mg of the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is administered per day.

70. The method of claim 64, wherein at least about 80 mg of the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is administered per day.

71. The method of claim 64, wherein at least about 10 mg to about 60 mg of the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is administered per day.

72. The method of claim 64, wherein about 0.2 mg to about 10 mg of the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor per kg of the mammal's body weight is administered per day.

73. The method of claim 60, wherein said therapeutically effective amount provides an average blood plasma concentration of the HMG- CoA reductase inhibitor or an active metabolite thereof at steady state below about 5 micromolar.

74. The method of claim 73, wherein said therapeutically effective amount provides an average blood plasma concentration of the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor or an active metabolite thereof at steady state below about 1 micromolar.

75. The method of claim 74, wherein said therapeutically effective amount provides an average blood plasma concentration of the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor or an active metabolite thereof at steady state below about 0.5 micromolar.

76. The method of claim 60 wherein said mammal exhibits symptoms of Alzheimer's Disease.

77. The method of claim 60 wherein said mammal exhibits symptoms of Down's Syndrome.

78. A method for treating a mammal exhibiting objective symptoms of Alzheimer's Disease comprising reducing Aβ levels in a mammal by administering to the mammal a controlled release composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of at least one HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor.

79. The method of claim 78 wherein said Aβ reduction results from lowering the amount of Aβ peptides in the brain, cerebral spinal fluid, or plasma of the mammal.

80. The method of claim 78 wherein said Aβ reduction results from:
(a) inhibiting production of Aβ;
(b) increasing the clearance of Aβ peptides from the brain, cerebral spinal fluid, or plasma; or
(c) preventing or reducing Aβ peptide aggregation or plaque formation in the brain of the mammal.

81. The method of claim 78, wherein said reduction of Aβ levels reduces plaque maturation in the mammal.

82. The method of claim 78, wherein the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of mevastatin, pravastatin, simvastatin, atorvastatin, lovastatin, rivastatin, fluvastatin, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, isomers derivatives, or metabolites thereof.

83. The method of claim 82, wherein the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is lovastatin or lovastatin acid.